



Bipartisan agreement has been reached on the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA). The House-Senate agreement includes a number of natural resources provisions that may be of interest to the members of the Western Caucus:

Expanding American Energy & Mineral Production

- Extends the successful pilot program that helps the Bureau of Land Management deal with a backlog of drilling permit applications, and locks in the rate for fees for applications for a permit to drill for the next ten years. This promotes oil and natural gas production on federal lands by reducing permit delays, providing regulatory certainty to American job creators, preventing the Obama Administration from increasing costs.
- Responsibly facilitates several proposed mineral development projects, which includes allowing for opening up the third largest undeveloped copper resource in the world – supporting nearly 3,700 American jobs, creating \$61.4 billion in total economic impact, generating nearly \$20 billion in federal, state, county and local tax revenue, and producing enough copper to meet 25 percent of current U.S. demand.

Protecting Jobs and Multiple-Use of Federal Lands

- Reduces grazing permit backlogs and adds needed certainty to America's ranching community.
- Updates fee structure to provide predictable, fair rates so families are not forced to tear down cabins they own in national forests.

Balancing Conservation Designations with Federal Land Conveyances

- **Provides a \$70 million down payment for Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILT).**
- Provides for over 110,000 acres of land to be conveyed out of federal ownership – to be utilized for economic development (including mineral production, timber production, infrastructure projects) and community development (ie, local cemetery, shooting range).
- Supports America's National Parks by providing new means of enhancing private funding (through donor recognition and the issuance of a commemorative coin to recognize the 100th anniversary

of the National Park Service in 2016) and by designating a select number of new park units that have strong local support.

- Designates approximately 245,000 acres of wilderness in specific areas with strong local and Congressional support. Nearly half of those acres are already managed as if it were wilderness due to its current status as a roadless or wilderness study area.
- Releases 26,000 acres of current wilderness study areas to multiple use.
- Protects private property owners by ensuring that no private property can be condemned.